

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I stand before you today opposed to the elimination of PILOT MME. The elimination of this grant to Thomaston would impose a hardship on local government and the taxpayers of Thomaston.

In order for you to understand the financial impact this will pose, I need to briefly discuss some historical values:

Since 2005 the town's expenditures have increased by \$ 701,134.00 or an average of .5% per year while the Consumer Price Index has increased on an average of 1.86% per year.

The Town of Thomaston's fund balance now stands at 5.3% while financial houses such as Moody's and Standard and Poor suggest 8% to 12%.

We will lose \$ 739,937.00 in revenue this year due to poor economic conditions, coupled with a proposed reduction of \$ 340,828.00 in PILOT revenue of which \$ 331,381.00 is PILOT MME. The MME reduction alone represents 45% of total lost revenue.

The value of a mill in Thomaston equals \$ 594,577.00. The reduction of PILOT MME is equal to .56 mills.

In conclusion, any reduction of revenue imposes greater stress on local governments' ability to provide needed services to our citizens in a financially responsible manner. As you can see from the above statistics, Thomaston has budgeted in a responsible manner in order to maintain affordability, however our resources are limited. While we all agree that this exemption is not only important, but is needed to assist businesses as they strive to survive in Connecticut, it is unfair to shift the burden entirely onto municipalities. I respectfully request on behalf of the Town of Thomaston, and all other towns and municipalities that you, our legislators, do what is needed and restore funding to this vital grant program.

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